

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 155321
ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /012 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:WNHOWELL:PDW
APPROVED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
NEA DISTRIBUTION ONLY

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R 192011Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 155321

STADIS/////////////////////////////////
FOR CHARGE FROM NEA/ARN DRAPER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SY

SUBJECT: SYRIAN JEWRY

REF: (A) DAMASCUS 3336, (B) DAMASCUS 3382

1. WE NOTE FROM REFTEL (A) TOUTAH'S AGREEMENT TO TRANSMIT PETITIONS OR AT LEAST FULL LIST OF NAMES OFFICIALLY TO COL. MESSAOUD. IT WILL BE HELPFUL TO US TO KNOW WHEN HE HAS IN FACT DONE SO SINCE THIS IS THE ONLY WAY THAT THESE CASES WILL GET INTO THE SYRIAN DECISION-MAKING PROCESS. SEEMS TO US THAT SEVERAL RECENT DEVELOPMENTS (ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON, APPARENT RELAXATION OF TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS (REFTEL B), AND RECEDING MEMORY OF JUNE 6 ISRAELI SYRIAN JEWRY OBSERVATION) MAKE IT EASIER TO CONTINUE STEADY, IF UNSPECTACULAR, PROGRESS.

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2. WE WILL BE TAKING INTO SERIOUS CONSIDERATION YOUR SUGGESTION RE PERSONAL PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE, WRITTEN OR ORAL, FOR NEW AMBASSADOR TO CONVEY UPON ARRIVAL. IMPACT, HOWEVER, WOULD BE GREATER IF MESSAGE WERE TO ARRIVE A MOMENT WHEN WAY HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR A POSITIVE DECISION ON AT LEAST SOME OF NEW PETITIONS. FOR THIS REASON, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE DOCUMENTATION BE ENTERED INTO THE SYRIAN

BUREAUCRACY SOON SO THAT IT WILL REACH THE PRESIDENCY FOR
DECISION IN NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JEWS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE155321
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WNHOWELL:PDW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780255-0826
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780643/aaaablpe.tel
Line Count: 64
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 94ec4086-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY, STADIS
Reference: 78 DAMASCUS 3336, 78 DAMASCUS 3382
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2297219
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SYRIAN JEWRY
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, SY
To: DAMASCUS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/94ec4086-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014